MEMORANDUM

Conversation with Jack Anderson on October 25, 1967

I went to see Jack Anderson to ask him about a report in his column of March 7, 1967, with respect to an alleged "CIA plan in 1963 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro". He said that he had gotten the information directly from a contact in the CIA and, because of other circumstances, believed that his contact had okayed the release of the news with the Director of the CIA. He knew nothing of the details of the plot which he said had been "planned" but not "attempted".

Ed Morgan

Jim Garrison
John Rosselli

Anderson said he had been approached in 1966 by a very prominent Washington attorney who, incidentally, was a former Chief Counsel of a Congressional Committee or Subcommittee. This unnamed lawyer had two clients who were in some way involved in the plan to assassinate Castro and/or Kennedy. For some reason which was not understood by Anderson, the lawyer said that the offense for which he was defending the clients would have the statute run at the end of 1967; hence his lawyer-client privilege would expire at that time; this is a total mystery. However, in any event, Anderson advised the lawyer to relate his story to Chief Justice Warren in order that Warren might be spared extreme embarrassment by having the story become public later. The lawyer went to Warren who decided that he had no interest in hearing the story; I am not sure if he physically talked with the lawyer-informant or not or just sent word that he was not interested. Anderson said that he was sure that the lawyer would not talk with me, however, I believe that Anderson

would keep his name to himself for his own journalistic reasons.

Anderson was in Garrison's office when a call came through from Vancouver, British Columbia, about a CIA agent who had defected and subsequently went to New Orleans at Garrison's request.

Anderson is very much impressed with Garrison but believes that he has bitten (1) more than necessary and (2) more than he can chew. However, he does believe that there is a very hard nub of truth to Garrison's contentions to some type of conspiracy involved in the assassination. Garrison opened all of his files to Anderson but the latter only had an hour or so in New Orleans to examine them. He was impressed by the fact that Garrison would open all of his files.

Anderson had not heard the story about Sheridan, O'hare, Stratton, Gervais, and Garrison and was quite interested.

Paraphrasing Garrison, Anderson said that he believed that Oswald was a disgrunted, mal-content who did go to Russia for the purposes stated in the Warren report. He said that he thought that the State Department permitted him to return to the United States because of his genuine re-defection. He was recruited in New Orleans by the anti-Castro people and volunteered to go to Cuba to try a assassination attempton Castro. However, he was blocked by bureaucratic red tape at the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City. This attempt having abortted, he returned to the States where Ferrie recruited him as part of a complicated plot to assassinate Kennedy. End of Anderson's surmises about Garrison.

The one really difficult question in the theories of all of those who dispute the Warren Report's single-assassin theory, is whether "the assassins" were anti-Castro or pro-Castro. It has occurred to me that it is possible that there were elements of both factions involved. The anti-Castro's could have been motivated to assassinate the President because of (1) the way in which the Bay of Pigs was mishandled, and (2) the agreement not to invade Cuba, made at the time of the missile crisis and (3) the White House's discouragement of CIA attempts to unseat Castro. On the other hand, the pro-Castro could be equally motivated by (1) the attempted invasion of the Bay of Pigs; (2) the successful U.S. embargo of missiles to Cuba and (3) U.S. plots to assassinate Castro. As the Warren Commission admits, when Oswald printed up and handed out pro-Castro leaflets in New Orleans, he used as the address for his organization the exact address of the anti-Castro headquarters in New Orleans.

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